



Fig. 1. Oil painting of O. Charnock Bradley in DSc Academic Robes, by Stanley Cursitor, A.R.S.A., Unveiled Wednesday 8 July 1936. © The artist's estate and The University of Edinburgh.

MEMORIAL TO A GENTLEMAN AND SCHOLAR – O. CHARNOCK BRADLEY

Colin M. Warwick, Jill Forrest and Alastair A. Macdonald

Professor Orlando Charnock Bradley, MD, DSc, ChB, FRSE, FRCVS (1871-1937) was the Principal of the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College (as it was then known) from 12 June 1911 until his death on 21 November 1937 (Fig. 1 opposite). Various aspects of his life have recently been described in this journal.¹

In the Annual Report² for the session after Bradley's death, Prof Robert G. Linton, his close friend and colleague, and acting Principal (1938-1939), wrote:

'The Academic Year opened with every indication that it would run its normal course, but the loss sustained through the death of Dr. Bradley in the early part of the autumn came as a severe shock to everyone associated with the College and the Veterinary Profession.

Many tributes have been paid to the services which our late Principal gave to science and to this College in particular, but to those who were privileged to have been associated with him in the earlier period when the College was housed in Clyde Street two achievements stand out pre-eminently. It was Dr. Bradley's foresight and initiative and his determination to overcome the apathy of the general public to the advance of veterinary science, characteristic of that period, that lifted us from the restricting influence of Clyde Street and enabled the College to be re-housed in more dignified and more suitable surroundings.

Whereas the Clyde Street building was "Dick's" College, the present building stands as a material memorial to Dr. Bradley.

Dr. Bradley strove for many years to improve veterinary education and bring it into closer relationship with Medicine so that the standard of veterinary education set up by the College would be worthy of recognition and acceptance by the University of Edinburgh, a fact which culminated in the affiliation of the two Bodies.

It was Dr. Bradley's culture and quiet dignity which not only helped to mould student character and inspire his colleagues to higher educational aims, but which eventually brought the College and the University into such close and happy relationship.

For these two truly personal achievements the College must for all time honour the name of our late Principal.'

During that year it was decided to commemorate Charnock Bradley's life in some way³, but the Second World War intervened. It was not until 1947 that the Alumnus Association instituted the Charnock Bradley Memorial Fund³. Initially the Alumni suggested that the College lawn, over which his ashes had been strewn, should be laid out as a Memorial Garden. An alternative opinion was the provision of an Undergraduate Scholarship for Proficiency in Anatomy 'to perpetuate his name and connection with the College'. In the event, the decision was made that a carved memorial plaque would be most appropriate. The work was awarded to 'Scott Morton, Ltd.'⁴ and carried out by Mr Sydney Gocke (Fig. 2).

The Bradley Memorial takes the form of three carved and painted wooden panels (Fig. 3). The main, centre panel shows the pre-1951 Dick Vet crest, the creation of which Charnock Bradley personally secured⁵. Under this is inscribed O CHARNOCK BRADLEY M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.V.S. PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY 1900-1937 PRINCIPAL ROYAL (DICK) VETERINARY COLLEGE 1911-1937. To illustrate Bradley's passion for horticulture^{6,7}, his favourite flowers are shown; on the left-hand panel, delphiniums, which he reportedly first bred in his small garden in Fountainhall Road⁸, and on the right-hand, red roses. A butterfly and goldfinch indicate his love of nature. A brass plate below the centre panel reads: 'This Memorial has been placed here to honour the name of Dr. O. CHARNOCK BRADLEY and to record the esteem and affection with which he was regarded by his students, his colleagues and all those who were associated with him.'

In November 1950 the memorial plaque was built into the oak panelling of the left wall of the entrance hall of the School at Summerhall, between the main entrance doorway and the door to the Principal's room⁹. On the 29 November 1950, during a short ceremony attended by many alumni and others, it was unveiled by Mr William Nairn, a member of the Board of Governors of the College¹⁰. The president of the Alumnus Association, Mr Ritchie, asked Professor Francis A.E. Crew to accept it on behalf of the Governors¹⁰.



Fig. 2. Photograph of Sculptor Mr Sydney Gocke, an Employee of Scott Morton Furnishings, Ltd., Carving the Decorative Floral Motif of the O. Charnock Bradley Memorial. Published with permission of The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland,(RCAHMS) SC879311, Collection Name – Scott Morton, Collection Date – c. 1952.



Fig. 3. A Photograph of the Restored O. Charnock Bradley Memorial at its New Location at Easter Bush.
Photograph C.M. Warwick

In 2011 the buildings at Summerhall were vacated and in June 2014 the memorial was re-sited in the new teaching building at Easter Bush Veterinary Centre. Skillfully restored by 'Laurence McIntosh of Edinburgh', joinery and cabinet making service, it can be found on the south wall in Seminar Room G01, which is to the right of the main entrance into the Atrium of the School. An oil portrait of Charnock Bradley (Fig. 3), painted in 1936 by the Orcadian artist Sir Stanley Cursiter (1887-1976), has been hung in the same room; both commemorate a great veterinarian, an inspiration to 21st century students.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank Ged Ford for assistance with the restoration of the memorial.

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2. LINTON, R.G. (1938), Vice-Principal's Report for Session 1937-1938. Edinburgh: Royal (Dick) Veterinary College. R(D)SVS Archive.
3. ROBERTSON, A. (1947), Charnock Bradley memorial fund. *Centaur*, 11, (3), p. 14.
4. 'Scott Morton Furnishings, Ltd.' occupied the custom-built Albert Works in Murieston Road, Edinburgh. This esteemed company designed and built furniture, mantelpieces, staircases, library shelves, panelling and consuls for organs. They fitted out apartments on the liners 'Queen Mary' and the 'Queen Elizabeth'. At one time they employed over 100 craftsmen. Another branch of the company, 'Tynecastle Tapestry', produced high-quality wallcoverings. They were in business from 1880 until 1966; CANT, M. (1995), *Gorgie and Dalry*. Edinburgh: Malcolm Cant, pp. 124-129.
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Authors' addresses: Colin M. Warwick & Alastair A Macdonald:
 Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies
 The University of Edinburgh
 Easter Bush
 Midlothian EH25 9RG.
 Jill Forrest:
 Centre for Research Collections
 Edinburgh University Library
 George Square
 Edinburgh EH8 9LJ.

MODEL HORSE RESTORED

In 1844 physician Louis Auzoux created a papier-mâché horse as a new way of teaching veterinary students without the need for anatomical dissections. About a dozen or so of these models can still be found in scientific establishments around the world including London, New Delhi and Paris. The example in Paris is at the National Veterinary School in Alfort. Dating from 1846 it was in desperate need of restoration and this was carried out in 2012 by a team of heritage experts and artists thanks to a €50,000 donation from Pfizer Animal Health. The first models sold by Auzoux were bought by the French Ministry of War for use by cavalry schools and remount depots.

DID YOU KNOW? Pinjrapol – In India, an enclosure, reserve etc., where old or sick animals are kept. From Sanskrit, *panjara*, a cage + *pol*, an enclosed yard. The early Buddhists and Jains built hospitals for the care of animals, birds and even insects. Such institutions have survived through the centuries and are today known as Pinjrapol.